

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please replace the pending claims with the following claim listing:

1. (Currently Amended) A modular explosives cartridge, said cartridge comprising a tubular body having lockable coupling members secured on opposite ends thereof, said lockable coupling members comprising a socket member secured at one end of the tubular body and a spigot member secured at an opposing end of the tubular body, said lockable coupling members each including at least one piercing member and a sealing membrane[[, in use,]] to form a sealed closure at opposite ends of said body to an explosive composition contained within said tubular body, each said lockable coupling members, in use, being adapted to releasably engage with a respective lockable coupling member of an adjacent a like explosives cartridge whereby adjacent sealing membranes of respective coupling members are pierced during coupling of adjacent cartridges to form a continuous column of explosive composition in an elongate explosive charge extending between opposite ends of the coupled explosives cartridges.

2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) An explosives cartridge as claimed in claim 5 1 wherein said at least one piercing member comprises an axially extending blade.

7-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) An explosives cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein said coupling members are secured to said tubular body by fusion or by an adhesive composition.

11-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) An explosives cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein said coupling members are identified by visual identifiers to assist in manufacture of and subsequent coupling of said modular explosives cartridges.

14. (Original) An explosives cartridge as claimed in claim 13 wherein said identifiers comprise colour coding of said coupling members.

15. (Currently Amended) An elongate tubular explosives ~~eartridge~~ charge comprising a plurality of coupled modular explosives cartridges according to claim 1.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) An elongate tubular explosives ~~eartridge~~ charge according to claim 15 including a spider for locating said elongate tubular explosives ~~eartridge~~ charge in a borehole, said spider comprising:

a mounting collar, in use securable about an outer surface of an elongate tubular explosives cartridge charge, said mounting collar supporting a plurality of spaced substantially radially extending fingers, said fingers, in use, being resiliently deformable to accomodate a borehole having a diameter greater than said elongate tubular explosives cartridge charge and smaller than a diameter of said radially extending fingers in an undeformed state; and,

a hollow locator body supported on said mounting collar to locate, in use, a detonator extending partially via an aperture in a wall of said explosives cartridge charge to an interior region occupied by an explosives composition.

19-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) An elongate tubular explosives cartridge charge as claimed in claim 18 wherein said mounting collar comprises a circular member slidably securable over an outer surface of said elongate tubular explosives cartridge charge, said mounting collar, in use, being anchored to said elongate tubular explosives cartridge charge by engagement of said detonator extending into said interior region of said cartridge charge.

22. (Currently Amended) An elongate tubular explosives cartridge charge as claimed in claim 18 wherein said hollow locator body has a tubular axis extending, in use, at an acute angle with a longitudinal axis of said elongate tubular explosives cartridge charge.

23. (Currently Amended) An elongate tubular explosives cartridge charge as claimed in claim 22 18 wherein said hollow locator body, in use, comprises a guide to facilitate alignment of a piercing tool to form an aperture in a wall of said explosives cartridge charge.

24. (Currently Amended) An elongate tubular explosives cartridge charge as claimed in claim 23 wherein said piercing tool is adapted, in use, to form a detonator locating cavity in said explosives composition.

25. (New) A modular explosives cartridge, said cartridge comprising:
a tubular body housing an explosive composition and extending between a first end and an opposing second end, a spigot member secured at said first end of said tubular body and a socket member secured at said second end of said tubular body, said spigot member and said socket member each comprising at least one piercing member and a sealing membrane, said spigot member being adapted to couple with a socket member of a like explosives cartridge such that when said spigot member couples with the socket member of the like explosives cartridge said at least one piercing member of said spigot member pierces the sealing membrane of the socket member and the at least one piercing member of the socket member pierces said membrane of said spigot member.